(as percent of GDP)

Sl. No.	Country	Social Benefits General Government	Social Benefits Central Government
1.	Bangladesh	—	0.99
2.	Chile	4.20	4.19
3.	China	—	—
4.	Argentina	6.14*	6.14*
5.	France	23.09	22.16
6.	Germany	24.63	20.67
7.	U.K.	12.68	11.23
8.	U.S.A.	12.20	9.08

* for 2004 Source: Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, 2008, IMF

New pension scheme

2613. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of New Pension Scheme (NPS) till the end of June 2009;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been discrepancy regarding the tax relief offered to subscribers prior to a certain date;

(c) if so, what is the rationale for not extending similar relief to the remaining subscribers of NPS; and

(d) whether Government considers removing this discrepancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The total number of subscribers in the New Pension System (NPS) as on 30.6.2009 was 5,40,244.

(b) to (d) There were two main tax related issues pertaining to NPS contributions. First, the benefit under Section 80 CCD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 was restricted to the employees of the Central Government and other employers and was not available to other individuals. Secondly, the accumulated pension wealth was subject to tax at the time of withdrawal. The Finance Bill, 2009 has proposed to extend the benefit of Section 80 CCD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to all individuals. Further, it is also proposed to exempt from tax all withdrawals if such amount is used for purchasing an annuity.

Circulation of fake currency

2614. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the prevalence of fake currency of higher denominations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has been able to ascertain the extent and magnitude of circulation of fake currency;

(d) whether Government has been able to trace where such fake currencies were printed;

(e) whether the complicity of any foreign State or non-State actors has been established; and

(f) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue bilaterally and at multilateral forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of counterfeit currency of higher denominations notes recovered and seized during last three years are as follows:

Year	Denomination		
	Rs.1000	Rs.500	Rs.100
2006	19606	81399	220419
2007	21130	121868	223798
2008	51799	281482	215047
2009 (upto 31.5.09)	16627	91528	75090

(d) to (f) Instances of circulation of high quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FFCN) have come to the notice of Government. As per intelligence reports, the high quality FICN are suspected to have been sourced from neighboring countries.

Modifications of the policy on ECBS

2615. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has modified its policy on external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to suit the funding requirements of corporates developers and integrated townships and SEZs and Non-Banking financial companies engaged in infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has since accorded their approval to the said policy; and

(d) if so, to what extent the various companies are likely to be benefited by this policy?